Edwin Walker, 84; Army general who was demoted by Kennedy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS – Edwin Walker, an Army general who allegedly was shot at by Lee Harvey Oswald and demoted by President Kennedy for espousing extreme right wing beliefs to troops during the Cold War, is dead at age 84.

The retired major general died Sunday in the Dallas home he bought after Kennedy removed him from his command in Germany in 1961 for distributing literature to troops.

He died apparently of lung disease, said Joe McGuire, an investigator for the Dallas County medical examiner's office.

1965 FILE PHOTO

EDWIN A. WALKER

In Warren Commission interviews, Oswald's wife said he fired through the window of Gen. Walker's home in April 1963 with the mail-order rifle believed to have been used to kill Kennedy in Dallas seven months later.

Marina Oswald told the commission her husband had planned the attack for two months.

In 1957, Gen. Walker appeared on the cover of Time as a hero after he led federal troops integrating the schools in Little Rock, Ark.

In fact, Gen. Walker led the troops only after President Dwight D. Eisenhower refused his resignation, historian Don E. Carleton, author of "Red Scare," told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

"He did not want to carry out that order," Carleton said. "He did not believe in racial integration."

After being pulled from Germany, he resigned his commission and demonstrated against James Meredith's integration of the University of Mississippi.

Gen. Walker grew up on a Texas ranch and returned to Dallas because of its strong conservative community, said Darwin Payne, a former Dallas newspaper reporter.

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